

QA-230
Locust Hill
Centreville
Private

circa 1790-1815

Locust Hill is a large frame house with Federal details and a frame wing that incorporates an earlier one story frame structure. The house was probably constructed either by the Nicholson family in the period circa 1790-1812 or by Thomas B. Turpin circa 1812-1815. The house has been carefully preserved by successive generations of the Turpin family. In addition to the house and wing a brick meat house and a second building believed to be a slave quarter have survived as well as a 19th century garden and the Turpin family cemetery, one of the largest and most carefully maintained family graveyards in the county.

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Turpin House, Locust Hill

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Turpin Lane

CITY, TOWN

Centreville

___ VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

1st

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Queen Anne's

3 CLASSIFICATION**CATEGORY**

___DISTRICT

☒ BUILDING(S)

___STRUCTURE

___SITE

___OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

___PUBLIC

☒ PRIVATE

___BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

___IN PROCESS

___BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS☒ OCCUPIED

___UNOCCUPIED

___WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE☒ YES: RESTRICTED

___YES: UNRESTRICTED

___NO

PRESENT USE

___AGRICULTURE

___MUSEUM

___COMMERCIAL

___PARK

___EDUCATIONAL

☒ PRIVATE RESIDENCE

___ENTERTAINMENT

___RELIGIOUS

___GOVERNMENT

___SCIENTIFIC

___INDUSTRIAL

___TRANSPORTATION

___MILITARY

___OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Virginia K. Turpin (LE),
c/o Wm. P. Turpin IV

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

P.O. Box 308

CITY, TOWN

Centreville

___ VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 21617

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Queen Anne's County Courthouse

Liber #: CWC 81

Folio #: 284

STREET & NUMBER

Courthouse Square

CITY, TOWN

Centreville

STATE

Maryland

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

___FEDERAL ___STATE ___COUNTY ___LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

QA-230

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Turpin House, also known as Locust Hill, is located on the northeast side of Centreville, due east of the intersection of Turpin's Lane and Banjo Lane. The house, associated outbuildings, and gardens are sited on high ground on the south side of Gravel Run.

The main house is of frame construction, 2 1/2 stories high, five bays wide, and one room deep with flush brick chimneys at either end of a pitched gable roof. A smaller two story frame wing projecting from the north gable wall incorporates a smaller, earlier building. Outbuildings include a brick meat house, a second brick building known as the Quarter, and several farm buildings. A garden to the east of the house leads to a family cemetery.

The front facade of the main house faces west, toward Centreville. The entrance is in the center bay, flanked by two 9/9 windows on each side. There are five 9/6 windows on the second floor and two 6/6 pitched roof dormers on the third floor. Two three-light cellar windows pierce the stuccoed brick foundation. The siding

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.1 DESCRIPTION

consists of 20th century beaded weatherboards with beaded cornerboards; the eaves are finished with a simple box cornice. The existing standing-seam metal roof replaces earlier wood shingles. A small, one story entrance porch protects the door in the center bay, which has a four-light transom, but no sidelights.

The lower portion of the flush chimney back on the south gable wall is exposed and stuccoed. A pair of 9/6 windows flank the chimney on the second floor, a pair of four-light windows are similarly placed in the upper gable. Wood shingle siding covers this facade; the eaves are trimmed with modern rake-boards.

The fenestration on the rear or east facade is assymetrical. The door is offset to left of center due to the stair, and there are two 9/9 windows to the south and one to the north. Three 12/8 windows are ranged across the second floor, and a single 6/6 pitched roof dormer is offset to the south of the center bay on the third floor. The siding is wood shingle with a box cornice, the roof is standing-seam metal. A one story porch stretches across the entire facade.

On the north gable, the wing is offset to the east, leaving the west part of the gable exposed. A single four-light window to the west of the chimney in the

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.2 DESCRIPTION

upper gable is the only opening in this wall. There is a bulkhead cellar entrance at the west end of the gable wall. The siding is wood shingle, the eaves are finished with wide beaded and tapered rakeboards.

The wing is offset to the east, projecting out flush with the outer edge of the east porch of the main house. The wing has clearly evolved in several stages to its present form. The northwest portion of the wing is the earliest section, and evidently originally was a small single room plan building with a pitched roof and loft. A more complete description of this evolution is included in the interior description.

The fenestration of the east facade of the wing is asymmetrical. On the first floor, there is a door in the south bay and two 6/6 windows to the right. The north end of this facade is left open to the weather and serves as a wood storage area. Three 6/6 windows are ranged across the second floor. The wall is covered with wood shingle siding and a box cornice; the roof is standing seam metal.

On the north gable wall, there is a door in the west bay on the first floor and two 6/6 windows on the second floor. The door appears to be an original door location but has been enlarged. The siding is

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.3 DESCRIPTION

wood shingle, the eaves are trimmed with plain rake-boards.

There are four 6/6 windows on each floor on the west facade. This facade is covered with plain weather-board siding and a box cornice. There is a brick chimney near the center of the wing, emerging through the roof on the west side of the ridge. It has been completely rebuilt in recent years.

The interior of the main house consists of a center stair hall with flanking parlors. The stair rises against the north wall of the hall to a landing against the east wall. It is an open-string stair with simple turned newels, a plain walnut rail, and square balusters. The carriage piece is molded and the stair ends are decorated with scrolled brackets. The area below the carriage is plastered, not paneled. The door under the landing opens onto an interior cellar stair.

The exterior door at the west end of the hall (the front door) is a modern door hung on wrought H-L hinges. The rear door is a six-panel door with wrought H-L hinges that have been remounted. The two interior doors, opening into the flanking parlors, are fully fielded Federal six-panel doors with H-L hinges. The jamb leaf of each hinge is concealed behind the

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.4 DESCRIPTION

architrave trim, and they are secured to the doors with wood screws. The architrave trim is typical of the Federal period, with a broken-field fascia and ogee backband trim on the interior doors, and an unusual complex Federal backband on the exterior doors.

A fireplace with a rebuilt firebox projects from the south gable wall of the south parlor. The mantel is typical of the Federal period, consisting of a crossetted board surround with a broken-field fascia and a bold ogee backband. A plain center block and frieze is flanked by sideblocks with diamond recessed panels. Complex moldings below the shelf break forward above the sideblocks, but the shelf does not break forward. Other trim includes broken-field architrave trim with ogee/astragal backband moldings, a bold two-piece chairrail with a molded shelf and a band of horizontal reeding on the fascia, and a molded baseboard.

In the north parlor, the fireplace is centered on the north gable wall, with a door to the right leading to the wing. The mantel in this room is similar to the mantel in the south parlor, but with plain side blocks. The chairrail in this room has larger, bolder moldings more typical of the 18th century. The architrave trim and baseboard are similar to the trim in the stair hall.

The second floor plan is a somewhat unusual

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.5 DESCRIPTION

variation of the common center hall form. The stair rises at the east end of the hall, with one chamber to the north and two to the south. The west end of the hall is partitioned to form an unheated chamber. A jog in the south wall of the hall allows additional space to this small chamber, while slightly reducing the size of the southwest chamber. The partition between the two south chambers is not centered, however. Rather it is offset to the east, forming a narrow rectangular room to the southeast and a larger, nearly square room to the southwest.

Evidently, the southeast room has always been unheated. Trim in this room includes a two-piece chairrail, beaded baseboard, and broken-field architrave trim with an ogee backband on the windows. The six-panel door is hung on H-L hinges with wrought nails, and is framed with beaded architrave trim.

The larger southwest room has a small fireplace in the southeast corner of the south gable. The mantel is a simple Federal board surround with a broken-field fascia and an ogee backband. The window architraves are beaded and have an ogee backband. A two-piece chairrail and molded baseboard encircle the room. The six-panel door is hung on H-L hinges with wrought nails.

The small chamber at the west end of the hall is

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.6 DESCRIPTION

traditionally referred to as the "changing room", but has been adapted as a modern bath. Early trim includes beaded architraves with an ogee backband, and a six-panel door with H-L hinges.

The north chamber extends the full depth of the house. The chimney stack is centered on the north gable wall, but the fireplace is offset to the east to allow for the first floor flue. The mantel has a crossetted backband framing the opening, a plain frieze and sideblocks and a molded shelf that breaks forward above the sideblocks. A door to the right of the fireplace leads to the wing. The original broken-field architraves and beaded baseboard survive; the chairrail has been removed except below the windows, where it serves as the sill. The door opening to the wing is framed with later architrave trim, typical of the mid-19th century.

An enclosed stair in the northeast corner of the stairhall leads up to the third floor. The third floor stairhall and south room are finished, the north room remains an unfinished attic. The west end of the stair hall is partitioned to form a store room. The door to this room is constructed of plain vertical boards and beveled battens, hung on wrought H-L hinges with the original leather washers. A handsome chamfered

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.7 DESCRIPTION

hand-pull survives on this door.

A beaded batten door opens from the stair hall into the south room, which is plastered but otherwise plain. This door is also hung on H-L hinges and is fitted with another handsome wood thumb latch. Flanking the chimney on the south gable are a pair of closets with beaded batten doors hung on butt hinges. Penciled on the back of the east door are a series of stick figures of school children and a teacher. They are dated May 4, 1891 and are identified by name. Included are four Turpins, Katie Busteed, and Susie Mitchell, as well as the teacher, Miss Fannie Boyden. The drawings were evidently done by Jack Turpin and depict the small class taught at Locust Hill in that year. Other names and dates from the same period survive but are difficult to read.

The north room on the third floor remains unfinished. The roof framing is fully exposed, and consists of hewn and pit-sawn common rafters joined at the ridge with a pegged mortise-and-tenon joint. There are no original collars, but light 1 x 4's were scabbed on at a later date. Wrought nails are evident in the sides of the rafters (for use as hooks) and protrude through the nailers from above. One detail of particular interest is the brick nogging in the gable framing. This is the

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.8 DESCRIPTION

only recorded example of nogging in an attic gable in a dwelling house in this county, although this practice occasionally occurs in meat house gables. Bricks and mud are also packed into the eaves. The dormer windows appear to date to the second quarter of the 19th century.

On the frame of the west window in the north gable is painted the following inscription: "James H_A_Y, 1855". The last name is unfortunately not entirely clear, but probably identifies a mid-19th century house painter.

There is a full cellar under the main house. It is divided longitudinally by a brick wall, forming two long narrow rooms, an unusual arrangement in a center passage plan house. The ceiling joists are laid parallel to the gable walls. They do not extend the full depth of the house, but rest on the center brick wall. They are only hewn flat on the top surface, with the bark left on.

The earliest part of the wing is the room to the northwest, which once comprised a separate one story building. This small structure was incorporated into the present wing by building a second room to the south, connecting it with the main house, and by adding a long passage across the east side. The roof of the original building was removed and the enlarged building

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.9 DESCRIPTION

was raised to two full stories.

The original section is constructed of post-and-nogging, a relatively rare survival that also occurs in the kitchen at the Roberts House (QA-45) and the Baxter House (QA-46), both located in the upper part of the county. The original nogging walls remain exposed and whitewashed; the ceiling is plastered. Originally the floor in this room was probably dirt, but a modern floor has been installed. Batten doors in the east wall opened into the wood storeroom and onto the passage; these are now closed off. A steep winder stair in the northeast corner allows access to the second floor.

To the south of the early section is a later room probably added at a relatively early date. An open string stair in the southeast corner of this room rises to the second floor. This stair begins as a tight winder adjacent to the east door, then rises in a straight run against the south wall. It has a turned newel, a walnut rail, and square ballusters, similar to the stair details in the main house. There is a small cupboard below the stair, which is enclosed with beaded vertical paneling. An 8-panel door with Greek ogee panel molds is the only other surviving detail of interest.

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.10 DESCRIPTION

The second floor of the wing is divided into a single room over the kitchen at the south end and four small rooms to the north. The latter rooms could only be reached by using the small winder stair on the north gable, and were clearly intended as segregated quarters.

Meat House

Located approximately 25 feet to the east of the wing is a brick meat house, 12 feet wide and 16 feet long. It has a pitched gable roof oriented on an east-west axis with a beaded batten door centered on the west gable wall. The brickwork is three course bond; the eaves are boxed in; the roof is covered with standing seam metal. One early beaded rakeboard has survived intact, the rest are badly weathered or replaced. There are three small vent holes in the upper gable of the east wall; similar holes in the west gable have been filled with bricks.

The interior has a dirt floor and open loft, with heavy smoke blackening on the interior walls and clear evidence that the curing fire was located in the southeast corner of the building. The common rafters are set relatively close together, with 10 rafter pairs in the 16 foot length of the roof. Six of the rafter pairs have lower collars and all 10 have upper collars.

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.11 DESCRIPTION

The rafters are joined at the ridge with pegged mortise-and-tenon joints and the collars are half-lapped and pegged. The few nails that are visible are machine made, but these may not be original.

Quarter or Kitchen/Dairy

Approximately 50 yards to the northeast of the meat house is a larger brick outbuilding that, according to Turpin family tradition, was used at one time as a slave quarter and more recently as a dairy. At present it serves as a storage building.

This building is approximately 18 1/2 feet square, with a pitched gable roof oriented on a north-south axis. It is constructed of three-course bond with a flush brick chimney centered on the north gable wall.

The principal entrance is centered in the south gable wall, with one 6/6 to the left and a second door centered in the upper gable, flanked by diamond pattern ventilators in the brickwork. The first floor door opening has been heavily repaired but is presumably original. The window to the left of the first floor door appears to be cut in, while the second floor door opening appears to be original. The rakeboards have been replaced.

On the east and west walls, a single 6/6 window in

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.12 DESCRIPTION

the center bay is the only opening. Both facades have rebuilt box cornices; the roof is of corrugated sheet metal. On the north gable wall, a small four-light window to the left of the chimney on the first floor appears to be cut in. A pair of diamond-pattern vents flank the chimney in the upper gable. The rakeboards are replaced.

The interior walls of this building are plastered on brick, with a concrete floor and beaded Victorian ceiling. The plaster appears to be original, while the floor and ceiling presumably date to the late 19th and early 20th century, when the building was adapted for use as a dairy. A large blocked fireplace is centered on the north gable wall with a concrete dairy trough in the alcove to the left.

The only access to the loft is through the exterior door in the south gable wall. There is no visible evidence of an earlier interior opening. The loft is fully floored and at one time had plastered knee walls and ceiling. The plaster was applied to machine lath nailed with machine nails. The knee walls and some plaster survives intact; the gable walls are plastered on brick. The roof is constructed of common rafter pairs joined at the ridge with pegged mortise-and-tenon joints and reinforced with collar beams that are half-lapped

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.13 DESCRIPTION

and pegged to the rafters.

Little definitive evidence can be found to determine either the date of construction or the original function of the building. The general character of the building suggests a date in the first half of the 19th century, and the three-course bond brickwork and early machine-made flooring nails are suggestive of circa 1820, but do not warrant precise dating. The loft plastering probably dates to the middle third of the century and may be a later insertion. If so, the loft was not whitewashed at any time. The original function of the building is equally uncertain. The Turpin family tradition of use as a slave quarter is not unreasonable, and it is clear that it was later used as a dairy building. One possible alternative is a detached kitchen/laundry building, but the distance from the main house tends to argue against that. The lack of interior access to the loft is somewhat puzzling in view of the plastered interior, and it is equally unusual to find a plastered room with no source of light other than the small ventilators and the gable door. In more recent times, the loft was clearly used for corn storage, as the ceiling space is now packed with corn cobs and grain and numerous corn cobs remain strewn about the loft.

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.14 DESCRIPTION

Cemetery and Grounds

To the east of the house, a level garden area leads to the Turpin family cemetery. The cemetery is one of the largest family burying grounds in the county. The garden is also of interest, as much of the 19th century landscape plan is still evident, and family tradition allows considerable analysis of lost or obscure features.

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Locust Hill has been the home of the Turpin family since 1812, when Thomas B. Turpin purchased the farm, then part of Chesterfield, from the Nicholson family. The main house is a large frame dwelling with Federal detailing. Although it has been traditionally identified as a colonial house, it seems more likely that it was constructed in the late 18th century by the Nicholson family or circa 1812-15 by Thomas B. Turpin. The hand wrought nails evident in the roof framing suggest a date no later than circa 1815. The two story frame wing was constructed in several stages and incorporates an earlier one story structure. In addition to the main house, a brick meat house and a larger brick building that may once have served as a slave quarter have also survived. The basic form and some plantings also remain from a 19th century garden that leads to the Turpin family cemetery to the east of the house.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

CONTINUATION SHEET

8.1 STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The property passed from Thomas B. Turpin to his son, Dr. Walter S. Turpin. Following the death of Dr. Turpin in 1871, the property passed to his son, William T. P. Turpin, who served in the Maryland Senate. The property descended through his son, John Register Emory Turpin and has descended to

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

QA-230

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Orlando Ridout V, Historic Sites Surveyor

ORGANIZATION

Queen Anne's County Historical Society

DATE

11/19/81

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Centreville

STATE

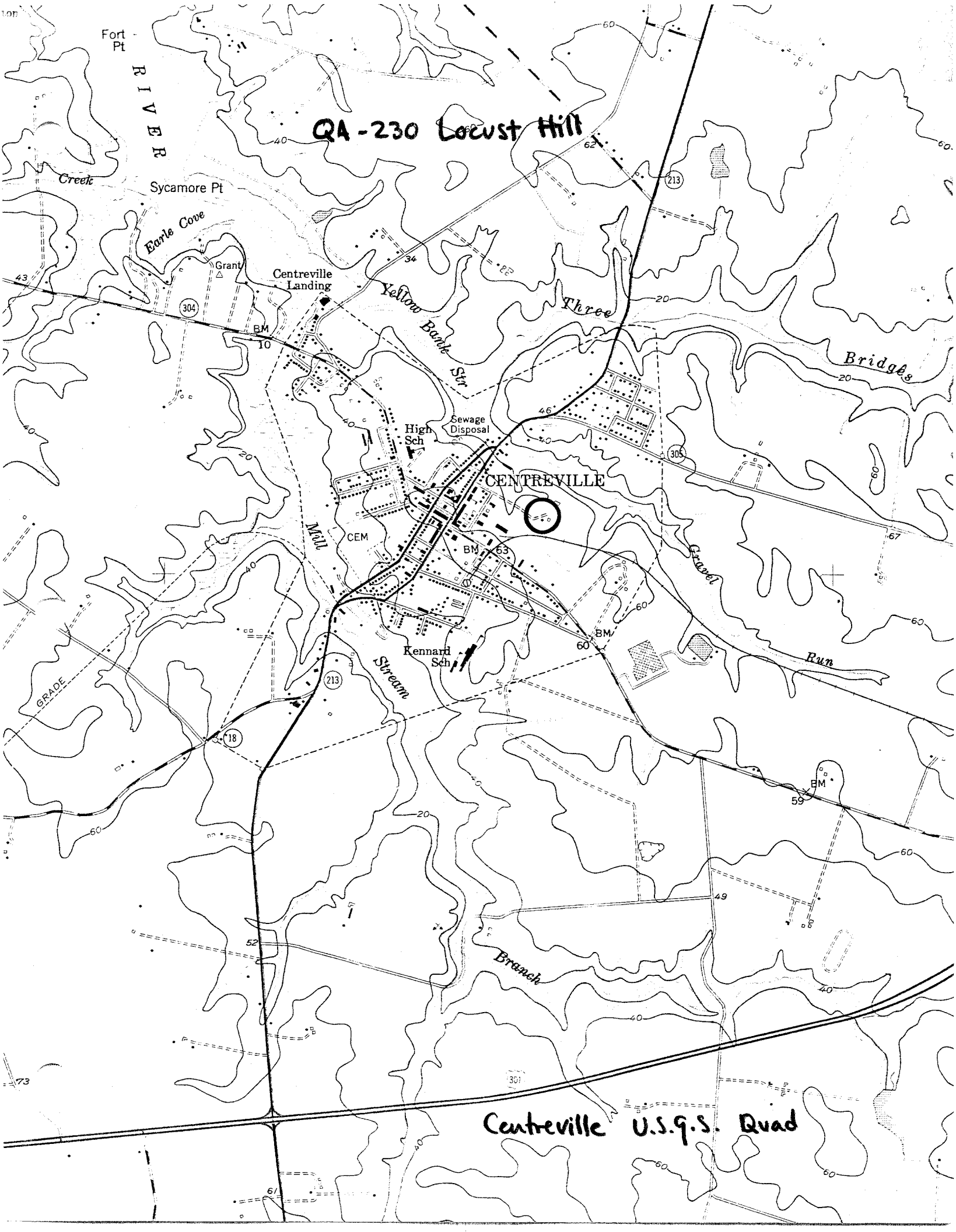
Maryland

Field Notebook QA-XVII; Recorded June 17, 1980.

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438



QA-230 Locust Hill

Centreville U.S.G.S. Quad

QA-230
Locust Hill

Mary McCarthy
Spring/Summer 2003
Digital color photo on file at MHT





QA-230 Locust Hill

Centreville, MD

Orlando Ridout V 8.14.01

Main house + wing from Northwest
during preparations to paint exterior



QA-230 Loust Hill

Centerville, MO

Orlando Ridout V 8.14.01

Brick kitchen & quarter from Southwest



QA-230 Locust Grove
Centreville, Maryland
Orlando Ridout V 1981
Brick meat house



QA-230 Locust Grove
Centreville, Maryland
Orlando Ridout V 1981
Turpin family cemetery



QA-230

Locust Hill
Centreville, Maryland
Orlando Ridout V 1980
Front facade from Northwest



QA-230

Locust Hill
Centreville, Maryland
Orlando Ridout V 1980
Rear facade from Southeast



QA-230

Locust Hill
Centreville, Maryland
Orlando Ridout V 1980
House and wing from Northeast



QA-230

Locust Hill
Centreville, Maryland
Orlando Ridout V 1980
Meat House